

Baseball Season Starts To-Day—Giants Meet Braves at Polo Grounds—Dodgers vs Phillies

Jess Barnes Likely Choice Of McGraw as Moundsman

Stallings Expected to Counter With Dick Rudolph; Leon Cadore Will Doubtless Twirl for Flatbush Nine; Yankees Are Guests of Connie Mack

By W. J. Macbeth
The 1920 championship races of the National and American leagues will be inaugurated to-day.

Greater New York needs only a favorable break in weather to make the occasion a notable one. The city has been favored so far as possible by schedule. Two of the eight openings will be seen within our boroughs.

John J. McGraw's Giants and Wilbert Robinson's rejuvenated Dodgers have both drawn home openings. New York is to engage the Boston Braves at the Polo Grounds. Brooklyn will entertain the Philadelphia Nationals at Ebbets Field. Both games will be called at 3:30 o'clock.

It is the turn of the Yankees to open out of town. Huggins and his sluggers are billed to help Connie Mack and the Athletics stir up a bit of excitement among the lethargic Quaker City fans. Shibe Park, Philadelphia, will be the scene. The complete schedule for both leagues will be seen elsewhere. That is the game will be played if the Huggins reach Philadelphia in time. They left for Quaker town yesterday afternoon at 4 o'clock.

John J. McGraw, vice-president and manager of the Giants, has never countenanced undue ostentation or show about a baseball park, except ultra-pure, 100 per cent pepper on the diamond. Consequently the opening at the Polo Grounds this year, as usual, will be confined principally to baseball. Tradition, of course, imposes the time honored custom of a dignitary throwing out the first ball. This office of honor is to be filled by His Worship Mayor Hylan.

Wildcat to Make Debut
Of course, there will be the band. And John McGraw's wildcat mascot, ultra-pure, 100 per cent pepper on the diamond, "high lights," no doubt. The service is to be well represented. Brigadier General MacArthur, of West Point, has accepted an invitation. General John J. Pershing has been invited. It was not known yesterday whether he would attend, as he had sent no official reply. But he will be in the city, and as he is a fan—well, you may surmise.

John J. McGraw and staff were discovered late last night on a still hunt for a nifty mascot. Mac wishes to have his wildcat's claws clipped. The Little Napoleon is nursing a score of fresh wounds, the result of some playful cuffs of the feline. He wishes to parade his new mascot, but has been unable to borrow a suit of armor.

The Polo Grounds gates will be opened at 12:30 on the word of Secretary Joseph O'Brien. Take it from Joseph, the crowd should start early to avoid the rush. Except for the boxes reserved seats at the Polo Grounds has become a thing of memory. First come, first served is the new slogan. And the crowd is not likely to tire of fond of good music. The band concert will start at 1:30 p. m.

In want of a more coveted flag (with the exception of 1879) Squire Ebbets of Flatbush, is going to give Old Glory another battle. He has engaged Shannon's Concert Band for the big occasion at Ebbets Field. Behind this band just a few minutes before scheduled starting time, the Dodgers and rival Phillies are expected to line up, march across the field and to the strains of "The Star-Spangled Banner," hoist the big American flag to the top of the center field flagpole.

This parade is one of Brooklyn's most treasured events. Earl Rolles, it will positively come off on scheduled time, or later, unless the band joins in the strike. The band may feel like striking. It has been asked to report at 1 o'clock.

Edwards as Ball Tossers
Charles Jerome Edwards, president of the Brooklyn Club, and one of the vice-presidents of the Equitable Life Assurance Company (Mayor Hylan having been drafted into last company), will throw out the first ball. So much for the trimmings. Now for the meat.

John J. McGraw declared last evening that either Jess Barnes or big Fred Toney would do the mound honors for the Giants. It all depends upon which of the two trusty right hands shows the more stuff in warming up. Gonzales will catch if Stallings uses a left-handed pitcher. If a right-hander is assigned to carry the fortune, the more stuff in warming up, Smith will handle the Giant selection.

The one-time Miracle Man of the Braves was rather uncommunicative on subject last night, but it is believed he will pin his hopes to Dick Rudolph. He always has.

The Giants have dabbled about town enough with the Red Sox and Fordham to give the fans a good line on their present form. A long dissertation is, therefore, unnecessary. Against the Red Sox McGraw's team looked fine. It won ten of fifteen games played in a spring series badly interrupted by rain. McGraw's club is fit. The two games here with the Red Sox proved that. He has five veteran pitchers ready for any major league opposition. Larry

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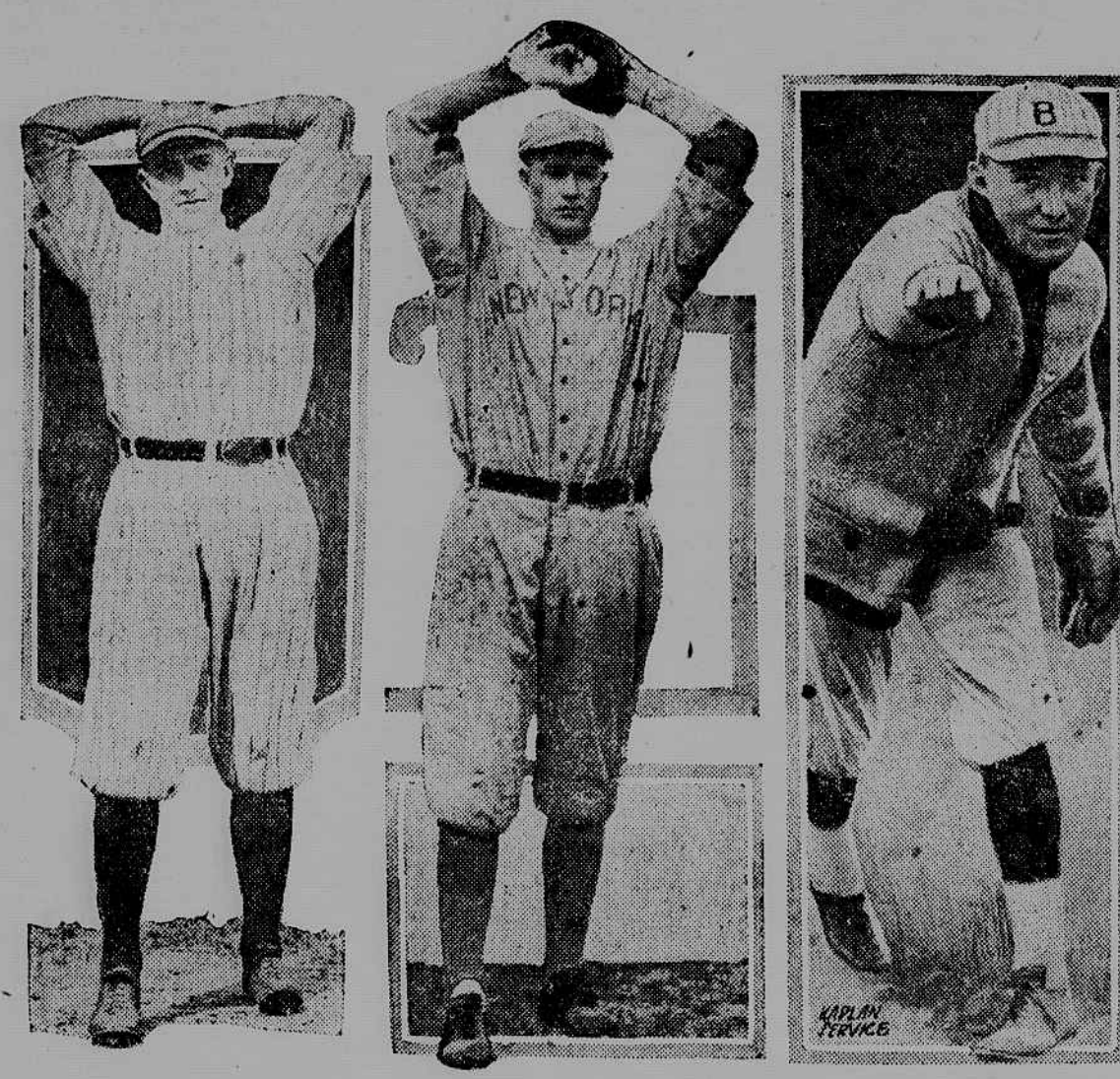
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Greater New York's Boxmen for Opener



Bob Shawkey, Yankees Jess Barnes, Giants Leon Cadore, Dodgers

The Sportlight & Grandstand Rice

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Prying Off the Lid

Well! Well! Well! Look who's here!
Old Man Box Score—Let him have a cheer.
Old Man Base Hit, Old Kid Run;
Old Professor Alibi, when the scrap is done.
All the pals and cronies, that we used to know
Back in other Aprils, long and long ago.
Let the lid fly open with a Ball or Strike.
You can shoot, professor, any time you like.

In 1918 the Cubs won a pennant. For 1919 they added Alexander and then finished third. We mention this erratic detail to let you know some of the bizarre eccentricities of the sprightly dope.

In 1918 the Red Sox won a world championship. In the spring of 1919 they looked better than ever. They finally managed to finish sixth. It's a great life—if you cut out the guessing.

Race Aspects

If things break gently for Cleveland that club has a chance of forging well ahead in the American League. But if fate persists in assailing the line-up, New York and Detroit both have a chance.

The National League race should be the closer of the two. Cincinnati and New York predominate in the early dope, but Brooklyn, Chicago and Pittsburgh are no great distance away, where a few sudden turns in the luck may keep the entire quintet in a summer knot.

There is no club in the National League that seems to be as far advanced beyond competition as Cleveland does in the American. Cleveland can still win with a shade the worst of the luck against any one rival.

There is no National League club in this fix. Any one of three or four clubs can take a shade in the break and win a flag.

The Inner Meaning

The opening of two major league seasons adds more than a mere trifle to the inner glow of the populace at large.

It means added recreation, in a spectacular way, for several million inhabitants who help push the turnstiles around. It adds something more to others who rarely go to see a ball game but who take keen enjoyment in following the fortunes of certain players and certain clubs. This list is larger than any one might think.

The flaming career of the spectacular Ruth will be followed by thousands who will never see him in action. But what he does or doesn't do will add a new interest to the various episodes of spring and summer.

The worth of baseball in the way of added pleasure to a nation makes it all the more necessary to see that the game is cleanly run and cleanly played, with both magnates and players at their best.

Leading Figures

Starting the season the leading figures, through their efforts in past campaigns, include the following:

1. Babe Ruth—champion home run hitter.
2. Ty Cobb—champion batsman of both leagues.
3. Tris Speaker—champion outfielder and manager.
4. Walter Johnson—best pitcher in the American League.
5. Grover Alexander—best pitcher in the National League.
6. Eddie Roush—champion batsman of the National League.
7. George Sisler and Roger Hornsby, of St. Louis—runners-up who may supplant Cobb or Roush.
8. Eddie Collins—still baseball's best second baseman.

These start the season as the main gate attractions, with Ruth leading the pack. The big slugger will remain the leader so long as he can propel the ball out of the park. If his home run propensities die out he will be only a fair card.

There are other lesser cards, such as Carl Mays, of the Yankees; Cicotte and Weaver, of the White Sox; Groh and Eller, of the Reds; Scott Perry, of the Athletics; Gavy Cravath, of the Phillies; Peckinpaugh, of the Yankees; Jim Vaughn and Hollocher, of the Cubs, and others, who are stars but not quite sturdy enough to be listed as individual coin collectors via the turnstiles.

It will be interesting to follow the fortunes of those named in the first list to see how many survive the test through September. Cobb, Speaker, Johnson, Alexander and Collins are no longer youngsters. But so far none of the five has shown any outstanding tendency to slip.

The Reds have a tremendous affair on their hands in the National League with four strong opponents to keep down. But they are much better off than the White Sox, who are given only an outside chance to repeat.

In the peppery interim reenter our old "side kick," sometimes better known as "The Standing of the Clubs"—after all, this is where the ultimate rebuttal rests.

Well Known "Bugs" Heed Call of Coogan's Bluff

Heinie Zimmerman Association Automatically Disbands, but Frank Frisch Association Will Take Position Behind Third; Reform Hits Press Box

By W. O. McGeehan
The good ship Baseball, which has been quivering on the ways for some time, takes the splash this afternoon. This nautical metaphor is used instead of the ancient legend of the small boy and his grandmother, accompanied always by the cartoon of a number of baseball players with the implements of their trade emerging from a baseball.

The season of 1920, wind, weather and transportation problems permitting, promises to be one that will be remembered. Also it promises to be a highly profitable one. It will have to be, to meet the increases which the magnates have been forced to pay. Also, peace seems to be hovering over the quarters in both the big leagues, where war to the knife was declared or rumored. Peace had to come to permit the turnstiles to click musically and effectively.

The experts who have been peering intently at the athletes all spring have come to no particular conclusions. Barring the Cincinnati Reds, the Giants seem to have about as effective a team as there is in the National League—if the infield holds up.

Prospects for the Yankees are brighter than they ever have been, though the Yankee fans are the persons of whom it was originally written that hope springs eternal. But this year they seem to have reason for large amounts of hope, though the American League race ought to be close, with the Yanks, Cleveland and Detroit battling for the lead. The White Sox of this season are problems. Disension has cracked the machine, and it got a terrific smash on its psychology when it lost to the Reds in the world's series.

The Yanks traveled to Philadelphia yesterday afternoon, with "Babe" Ruth packed in cotton batting and riding in a separate truck. If the "Babe" should be in any way bruised or busted bang will go the season's profits for the New York Americans.

The Giants open to-day at the Polo Grounds against the Braves with all due ceremonies. Mayor Hylan will be there to leave out the opening ball, and the Mayor is said to have been warming up carefully for the event. Last time out he was a bit wild, but his handlers say his control has become much better since.

There will be ceremonies over at Ebbets Field, too, when Uncle Wilbert Robinson digs in against the hosts of the Phillies, led by the venerable but still swatsome Cactus Cravath. Charles Ebbets, the venerable Squire of Flatbush, has prepared the ceremonies, and they are said to be of such impressiveness that they alone will be worth the price of admission.

The weather man has announced that it will be fair and colder, which means that it will not be exactly ideal baseball weather, but none of the teams has been finding any ideal weather on the preliminary trips. The old winter "bennies" will be worn quite extensively, but the gathering at the Polo Grounds promises to be a record one for an opener. Secretary Joe O'Brien says that there is an advance sale that is exceedingly pleasing.

Harry M. Stevens, the caterer, who has been at the Polo Grounds, man and boy, for more than a quarter of a century, is prepared to meet a rush to all of his food departments.

All of the well known "bugs" are preparing for the annual rite, and have been dreaming about the seats they occupy summer after summer for years. The Heinie Zimmerman Association has been automatically disbanded, but the new Frank Frisch Association will march into position behind third base. This society is made up of Fordham alumni and their families.

The press box will no longer be worth watching. It will be made up exclusively of newspaper men. Not a thespian will be admitted under the new rules, and even the municipality's best barbers will be barred. It will be a strange and somewhat bizarre-looking aggregation, but after a while those who are forced to sit behind the home plate will get used to it.

It is superfluous to add that the managers of the three New York teams are highly confident about their games of to-day and of the outcome of the season. They have always been that way just before the first game.

Mayor Hylan will stop the worriment over the general situation on the part of a large section of the population when he starts the Giants on their way by heaving out the first ball. With the start of the season the Giant fans worry about nothing but the chances of the Giants, and that kind of worry never killed anybody.

Young Golfers Bid for Title; New Amateur Champion Likely

Bockenkamp and Augustus Promising Players; Local Linksmen Loom

By Ray McCarthy
The national amateur golf championship tournament will not be held for several months. But a good forecast of the event can be made right now from the golf that has been played so far this year. The amateur meet will be keenly contested, and probably will bring forth a new champion. The tourney will take place on the Engineers Country Club course at Roslyn, L. I., starting September 1.

This forecast is drawn chiefly from the recent amateur tournament at Pinehurst. Some gossip and a little history serve to bring the picture into focus. It might also be added that players from the metropolitan district will cut a wider swath in the final reckoning than heretofore.

Bockenkamp to the Front
For instance, there is R. E. Bockenkamp, the youngster from the Midland Valley Club of St. Louis. Bockenkamp, when he started out at Pinehurst, was quite overlooked in the preponderance and prominence of the field. He did nothing exceptional the first two days but he qualified and went right through to the semi-finals. And on the day these were played there were several bets laid he would defeat Sam Gram, of the Greenwich Country Club. Sam himself wasn't any too sure he could get away with the match.

For sixteen holes it was a nip-and-tuck affair. Finally, Gram, more experienced and a little staid, grabbed a couple of holes in succession and was victorious.

Sam breathed a sigh of relief at the conclusion of the round and when asked afterward about the game he said: "All right, but too close for comfort."

Our belief is that young Bockenkamp is just beginning to arrive and we have heard from before the summer is over. He drives well, uses the iron in good shape and is weak only on putting. Last year he lost the trans-Mississippi title through failure to run a putt up far enough. It hung on the lip of the tin and stayed there.

Then there is Jimmy Standish, of Detroit, former Western champion. Standish was in this vicinity recently and took a peep at the Engineers' course. He believes he has a good chance for the national title, and there are many others who hold the same belief. He should improve with this summer's play.

Adair Lacks Experience
Perry Adair, clubmate of Bobby Jones, also will receive some backing in the national meet, but Perry must curb his youthful untidiness before that time if he is to succeed. He needs more experience to become a good match player.

Harold Weber, of the Inverness club, and E. L. Scofield, of Stamford, are a pair of veterans who have shown well on occasion, but they appear to be on the verge of their best season this year.

Opening Day Games In Major Leagues

NATIONAL LEAGUE
Boston at New York.
Philadelphia at Brooklyn.
Pittsburgh at St. Louis.
Chicago at Cincinnati.

AMERICAN LEAGUE
New York at Philadelphia.
Washington at Boston.
St. Louis at Cleveland.
Detroit at Chicago.

Clean Baseball in A. A.
CHICAGO, April 13.—Profanity on the baseball fields will not be tolerated in the American Association this season, President Hickey told his staff of umpires at a conference here to-day. The umpires were instructed to order any player or manager off the field at the first offense and to report subsequent violations to President Hickey, who said he intended to fine and perhaps suspend the offending player.

Eight Matches Scheduled For Columbia Net Team
The Columbia tennis schedule, consisting of eight matches, was announced yesterday. Five of the meets will be held at home, and the opening clash will take place a week from to-day, when New York University comes to Morningside Heights. The net candidates will report to Captain H. W. Forster to-day and practice will probably start at that time.

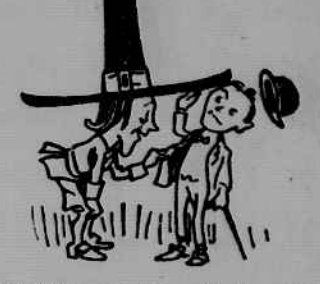
The complete schedule follows:
April 21, N. Y. 11; 24, Yale at New Haven; May 1, Fordham at St. Louis; 15, Princeton at Princeton; 23, Lehigh.

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Settle on the cloth of the early settlers and you'll have a suit that's built for wear as well as looks.

"Forefathers' Cloth"—a faithful reproduction of the long wearing fabrics of 1620.

No handsomer suits in our stores.

Settle on a "Scotch Mist" and you've settled the question of unsettled Spring weather.

Overcoats of rainproofed Scotch chevrons constructed after our own formula.

Livery. Luggage. Sporting Goods. Hats. Shoes. Fixings.

*Registered Trade Mark.

ROGERS PEET COMPANY

Broadway at 13th St. "Four Convenient Corners" Broadway at 34th St. Broadway at Warren Fifth Ave. at 41st St.

Lewis May Join Carpenter Tour; Gets \$30,000 Offer

"Strangler" Lewis, who is to wrestle Joe Stecher for the world's championship in the 71st Regiment Armory Friday night, is more anxious than ever to wrest the crown since his manager received the following telegram yesterday:

"Billy Sandow, 1482 Broadway, New York.
"Since coming West I find that most cities will put on wrestling shows in conjunction with Carpentier, therefore please do not tie Lewis up if he defeats Stecher. I hereby offer you \$30,000 and expenses for Lewis to accompany Carpentier on ten weeks' tour, you to approve of every engagement in which Lewis appears."
"JACK CURLEY."

Stecher announced last year that after his meeting with Lewis he will take a needed rest. "When I finish with Lewis," he said, significantly, "there will be no more real contenders to meet, so I will go back to Nebraska and lay off for several months."

Only Ten A. L. Pitchers Eligible to Use Spitball

CLEVELAND, April 13.—Only ten American League pitchers are eligible to use the "spitball" during the 1920 season, President Sam B. Johnson announced here previous to his departure for New York.

Cleveland has nominated Coveleskie and Caldwell; Chicago, Cicotte and Faber; Detroit, Leonard and Ayers; St. Louis, Shocker and Gallia; New York, Quinn, and Boston, Russell. Neither Philadelphia nor Washington made any nomination.

Giants vs. Boston To-day, 3:30 P. M. Polo Grounds. Adm. 25c, incl. Tax—Adv.

IF Arrow Collars were not the best that you were offered at the price you are asked to pay, then most assuredly they would not be what they are: the most popular collars made in America.

Cuett, Peabody & Co. Inc. Try N. Y. Makers of Arrow Shirts and Gaiter Underwear